Aftermath

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Dr. Dennis Grantham
1939-1995

Dennis Grantham Dies of Cancer at Age 55

Dr. Dennis Grantham, who was born on October 23, 1939, died January 24, 1995 of the cancer he had been battling for two years. On his birthday last fall, he observed he had reached the speed limit of 55.

Dr. Grantham came to E.T.S.U. in the Fall of 1972 with BA (61) and MA (63) degrees from Miami University in Ohio, his home state, and a Ph. D. (72) from the University of Oregon in abstract algebra. He lived with his wife, Carol, in Greenville. He has three sons, Ken, who is now teaching mathematics at Kimball High School in Dallas, James, who is a lawyer in Houston, and Kris, who is a manager of a paint store in Dallas. His mother is in a nursing home here in Commerce. He has a grandson, Joshua Grantham, who is the son of Ken and Tina. He has a brother, Craig Grantham, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a sister, Karen Grantham, in Sacramento, California.

From 1963 to 1966, he attended Tulane while teaching at [illegible]U in New Orleans. He taught at Northeast Louisiana University from 1966 to 1968. His department head there was Dr. Dale Bedgood. He was in Oregon from 1968 to 1972 where he was on a NSF matching salary grant for the first year.

Dr. Grantham had a number of interests. Before a bicycle accident claimed his right leg below the knee, he was interested in hiking and enjoyed hiking in the mountains of Oregon with his family. He liked to read for relaxation. He was a devoted teacher and student. He completed the course work for a masters degree in computer science at East Texas State while teaching mathematics full time.

His vocation and his hobby was teaching. In high-school, he found he could explain mathematics to his peers, so that is where his interest in teaching really began. He had limitless patience with those who were trying to learn mathematics. He really enjoyed the classroom.

Since the time he was diagnosed with cancer, he elected to continue teaching classes in mathematics and computer science and serve as acting head of the computer science department. He taught two mathematics classes in the Fall of 1994 and hoped to be able to do the same in the Spring of 1995. He managed to teach the first week of the spring term, but telephoned the following Monday to say he could not make it in that day. He died the next day around 5:00 p.m.

The following are some thoughts and memories about Dennis from some of the faculty:

Anderson

To me, Dennis Grantham was a close friend, valued colleague, and trusted advisor. To many of you he was a teacher. It is my guess he was much more, but you can fill in those details.

On the day following his death, none of us felt like going to class; but we knew Dennis would have been quite upset if we hadn't. There was much reflection that day, about him and his great contribution to all our lives. Most of this newsletter is a result of that reflection. Our words will never be adequate to express our thoughts on Dennis Grantham. Perhaps we are merely demonstrating that inadequacy. But perhaps we will bring some recognition to a man who never sought recognition.

Dennis Grantham was a man who made a lasting impression on anyone who met him. He had a quick mind for mathematics, a booming voice, and a delight in combining them to interest others in mathematics. He had a keen wit which was occasionally used to form the most pitiful puns. Anyone who truly knew his work could give ample testimony of his willingness to serve well in any capacity requested and of his wide appeal to students in two departments — Mathematics and Computer Science. There just aren't many people who will work in the tireless, enthusiastic, competent and selfless way that he would.

Shortly after I became department head, Dennis and I de-

veloped the custom of eating lunch at my house about once or twice per month. The menu was always the same peanut butter and banana sandwiches. I supplied the sandwiches, he brought cokes and, occasionally, some peanut butter. During these times together we discussed students, mathematics, and how best to advance the department. I am sure I profited much more than he did from these sessions. I know I enjoyed them for Dennis was always fun. Around this time my house was the location for a dinner party. The Granthams were invited. Just after getting his invitation, Dennis put the following note in my mailbox.

Dr. Anderson:

I received an invitation to your home for dinner Saturday night. Was this an error? If not, I and Carol accept. Thank you. How many jars of peanut butter should we bring?

Dennis Grantham

I expect many of you have remembrances of Dr. Grantham. Perhaps, like us, you would enjoy writing one down. If so, we would be interested in collecting them. We feel that he is a teacher who should be remembered. He has already been honored by having a scholarship fund in his name. Many of you have contributed to it. He was very pleased by this. We feel he would also be pleased by words from his students. If you have some anecdote, tribute, or observation about Dennis Grantham, please send it to us. We will try to edit them into a suitable collection.

Aslan

I called him Grantham the Great. Great he was. Dennis was a superior teacher, a workaholic and a stubborn man who put work ahead of everything, often even ahead of his own family. He once told me he wanted to be known as a good teacher. No doubt he was among the very best. Dennis and I had many memorable moments when we shared mathematics, knowledge and laughter. It is now very painful to pass his office door knowing that he is gone. I still really feel his spirit around and can still hear the sound of his distinctive walk. He is either joking or "yelling" at me to keep me sharp.

Dennis: I love you and my family loves you. Allow me to give you some "advice." Quit teaching mathematics to the people around you in heaven and let them rest in peace.

Bedgood

I had the good fortune of having the opportunity to recruit and employ Dennis Grantham as a faculty member twice during his career. While I was the department head at Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, I recommended Dennis for a position as instructor of mathematics, and he came there to teach beginning the fall, 1966. It was soon evident that we had recruited an excellent teacher. I recall that his references gave strong acclaim to his teaching, so much so that the president of the university was suspicious and had some doubts as to his stature in the classroom. But Dennis quickly won over the unbeliever and skeptics. I left Northeast La. Univ. after the summer, 1967 to come to East Texas State University, and the following year Dennis left NLU for the University of Oregon where he completed the Ph.D. degree. During the next four years, Dennis and I continued to communicate and as he neared the completion of the degree, I secured authorization to recruit him to come to ETSU, which he did beginning the fall, 1972. His coming to ETSU w[as] one of the really nice things to happen during the years that I've been here. He definitely was an impact instructor.

One of the early recollections that I have of Dennis was in Monroe. I remember that he and his family lived in a sub division that was about two miles from the campus. The road followed a path along side a beautiful bayou. Dennis was an avid walker, and he religiously made the four-mile round trip daily, rain or shine. One of his comments that he made shortly before he arrived in Commerce, having now a prosthesis as a result of a bike accident, was that he would be of little value for the department softball team. His sense of humor always prevailed.

Brock

There have been a number of enjoyable "Grantham" incidents over the years. As many of you know, he has a unique way of making his point. The sarcasm, with that tinge of a smile, has clearly made his point many times. His wit was unsurpassed. Watch out for puns. He sprinkled them frequently into a discussion.

About 15 years ago we taught a number of classes in the Dallas area. I always looked forward to that assignment if Dr. Grantham was also assigned to teach with me. We always enjoyed eating at interesting or "different" restaurants in the Dallas area. One semester Dr. Jim Beech was also a[s]signed to teach with us in Dallas. We had heard of an interesting place to eat that was located on Cedar Springs. I did not know where that was and Dr. Grantham also claimed not to know the location of that street. Dr. Jim Beech, a young professor just out of the university, was teaching a class of "older ladies." We suggested that he should ask his class where this street was located. In case you do not know, this street is just northwest of downtown Dallas and was known for its "ladies of the evening." Dr. Beech detected that the ladies in his class were not quick to tell him where Cedar Springs was located. They began to question him about why he wanted to go there. He indicated that it was to find a restaurant that he wanted to patronize. The ladies eventually informed him about the activities on Cedar Springs and where it was located. Dr. Beech left here a number of years ago. I do not think he ever really believed that we hadn't "set him up." The hamburgers and chili were very good. I think we even made a second trip to Cedar Springs—for food.

In the Spring of 1992, Dr. Grantham won the Texas Association of College Teachers' prestigious Teaching Award. This award comes with a plaque and $500. Dr. Grantham added $500 to this and donated the sum to the mathematics department to begin the Grantham Scholarship for graduate mathematics students. There is a story that the idea for this scholarship was begun sometime earlier at an awards banquet [w]here it seems an award was being made in the name of a profess[or]

of English to a student. The student happened to be a rather lovely coed. The professor, rather than shaking her hand, gave her a big hug and Dr. Grantham is reported to have said "I want one of those." He claims he just wanted to give a scholarship in his name, but those of us who know him are not so sure.

Both he and his wife changed their names when they married. He was born Dennis Troy Pieper in Cincinnati, Ohio. He began using an alias in Junior High School in Hamilton, Ohio. After relating what he had done, to his prospective father-in-law, he strongly suggested that Dennis make his name change official. Carol Poole became Carol Grantham on 22 December 1960 and Dennis became Dennis Pieper Grantham.

The Grantham tongue-in-cheek lives on. His three boys could not wait for the opportunity to fill out beginning of-the-year forms at school. The teacher carefully explained how to fill each line including mother's maiden name. That was their opportunity to raise their hand and ask "Where do I put my father's maiden name?"

In our Alumni Newsletter, which went out in October, 1993, we informed our alumni that the Grantham Scholarship was being formed and we suggested that those who had had one of his classes might want to donate to that fund. When Dennis saw the letter, he said "Don't ask them for ten dollars if they liked my class, ask them to send five dollars if they didn't like the class and you will get more money."

Davenport

I have so many good thoughts of Dennis floating around in my head that I hardly know where to begin. Dennis and I both began our ETSU journeys in the fall of 1972, and I can still remember our first visit. I was impressed with him then and have only grown to admire him more during the past 22+ years. His remarkable dedication and enjoyment of teaching has served as an inspiration to me. His sharp wit has always kept us on our toes. His friendly "Hi" each day as he passed my office on the way to his still rings in my ear in a very special way. Dennis just seemed to always be there and he has served as a strong support over the years for so many. Dennis will continue to be an inspiration to me as long as I live. I really do not have the words to express my feelings at this point, but suffice it to say I'll miss him each and every day.

Heath

Dennis' mathematical mind did not permit him to answer a question the way the average layman would. He would answer it precisely, sometimes adding a pun or a witticism. On one occasion we were visiting about his abstract algebra class.

"Is it a good group?" I said. He replied,"Yes, and rings and fields are there too!"

I appreciated Dennis Grantham's dedication to his profession, his support of student organizations, and his unique personality. His absence will be noted profoundly by the students in the classroom and his colleagues in the department.

Jones

When I was working on my Masters degree, I shared an office with Clay Crawford. We both signed up for any graduate course taught by Dennis—and we ALWAYS studied together for those courses! Many of the assigned questions and problems were "real headscratchers," and we often took advantage of the fact that GA's offices are in such close proximity to faculty offices. Before long we developed the practice of flipping a coin to see which of us would visit Dennis with the most recent snag we had encountered: We had discovered that his typical response to a question from us was a string of questions for us. He would lean back in his chair, reposition his glasses on his nose (as he smiled mischieviously in contemplation of our coming ordeal,) cross his arms over his chest, send us to the board and lead us (only occaisionally kicking and screaming) to the discovery of the answer to our original question. In retrospect, I won the most when I lost the coin toss.

Kreminski

To me, Dennis was someone who very soon after I met him engendered respect, personally and professionally.

Professionally, I was very glad that he participated in a seminar we ran, on a topic that is relatively new, quantum groups. Even though he was teaching a full load and ill, he made certain he attended each meeting, often actively participating. An outsider might wonder why he would be trying to learn something new and fairly technical, unrelated to his teaching and administrative duties, at such a stage in his career. But I think his response would have been something simple and succinct like: because it's math.

Personally, his directness might at times take one aback; but ambiguity is not a virtue to a mathematician. I characterize him as very business-like and serious, surprisingly so for a man of such . . . mirth. I think he took his humor very seriously. His at times incessant pun-stering and occasional sarcasm contrasted well with his no-nonsense attitude. Nevertheless, I'm left feeling that he was somewhat of an enigma; somewhat paradoxical. It's easy to recall images of him smiling sheepishly from behind his desk, as well as images where he is making his point somewhat forcefully. And even now, there's still a paradox that remains: he's gone, but he's also still here (we can see him). He's here, and he's not here. Math itself has something of that quality, of being there and not being there. His passing makes us all very sad, and yet his presence has made our lives happier too. I wonder how Dennis would like being described as a paradox; I'm sure he'd let me know.

Lamb

Dennis came to ETSU in the fall of 1972. We soon became good friends. My wife and I played bridge with him and his wife, Carol, many times and did many other things together. Once, we went to Dallas for dinner at the Magic Pan and saw Star Wars when it was in the theatres in 1977. After he and his family moved to Greenville, we met many

times at Bo Bo's Chinese restaurant (now called Yen Zing) for dinner and talk. All the fun times we had are great memories.

Dennis became interested in computers soon after he came here and began taking classes in that area. Dr. Bill Anderson and I were writing an article on the behavior of of a lunar shuttle as it landed on the moon. Dennis wrote a computer program that would take our initial data and use it to predict the landing success or failure of the shuttle. The three of us published the resilts in the *Mathematics Teacher* in September, 1984.

Staebler

I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to get to know Dennis Grantham. He will remain in my memory as an inspiration for courage, strength, unselfishness and the love of teaching. During the fall 1994 semester I would often eat lunch with him, Archie Brock, Stuart Anderson and anyone else who could join us. I could see the toll cancer was taking on him, and yet his quick humor and candid thoughts would grace our lunch table. He did not let cancer keep him from living. He always remained devoted to teaching his students and to serving the ETSU community. The week before Dennis died I walked past his classroom while he was teaching. Though he had been struggling with weariness and pain, in the classroom his face was lively and his voice was full of energy. Dennis truly loved teaching and that love remained with him to the end.

Underhill

Dennis was the quintessential teacher. He took obvious pleasure in helping students to learn mathematics, and it didn't have to be advanced material. It might be inside the classroom, but very often it was somewhere else. Every student received his complete attention, no matter what the question. He was never happier than when helping someone to learn.

No one gave more to the university and expected less in return than Dennis. Whether it was taking classes for someone, running number sense contests on Saturday, teaching extra courses without compensation, or a hundred other things, it was never a problem. He did everything well and did it graciously.

Dennis arranged the furniture in his office so that his desk faced the door, and the door was rarely closed. This invited numerous interruptions from faculty and especially students. No doubt Dennis would have said, if he had ever been asked, that these "interruptions" were an essential part of his life. Whatever he had been doing could wait if someone needed his help. We can all learn from his example.

Yarema

Besides being my abstract algebra teacher and computer science teacher, Dr. Grantham was also my graduate advisor. To me his talent shone forth in this capacity too. Dr. Grantham never "told" me what to do as I frequently talked to him about the direction my educational preparation should take. After talking with me, I then would make my own decision. As I advanced in my graduate studies, I asked for his advice less and less. In the fall, he told me he missed my asking for his help in making decisions. I replied that his guidance had been so great that I now was capable of making my own career decisions. Dr. Grantham retorted, "That's what worries me. I want to know what decisions you're making!" As I walk by his office, I, too, shall miss him, calling out my name which was my cue to come into his office for a "chat."

Four Professors Plan to Retire in 1995

Drs. Dale Bedgood, Archie Brock, John Lamb, Jr. and Howard Lambert are planning to retire this year. Drs. Bedgood and Brock will retire in May, Dr. Lamb will retire in July and Dr. Lambert will retire in December. Below are some reflections by two of them on their careers at ETSU:

Lamb

My wife, Mildred, daughter, Brenda, and I came to ETSU in the fall of 1968. Our first home was on Bryan Street behind the Driftwood Apartments which is now a parking lot. Daughter Margaret was born on October first, less than 24 hours after we attended a reception for new faculty in the student center. We built a house on McCarley in 1969 and still live there. We have watched our neighbors grow old and the kids leave town. While in Commerce, we have taught mathematics to over 10,000 students at ETSU, Commerce High School and Commerce Middle School. I have presented many talks in several schools within a 75-mile radius on math and space. At this writing, I have published 26 articles and have 3 pending. I compiled the 26 published articles into a book entitled *Twenty-five and Counting* in 1994. I have attended every meeting of the Texas Section of the MAA since 1969 and presented 17 papers there. I have been Level II Director for the Texas Section for the past three years. For the past 27 years, I have enjoyed the opportunities to pursue the variety of activities mentioned above. Now I hope to pursue other activities like bicycle riding and reconditioning, fishing, working on Habitat for Humanity houses, astronomy, photography and perhaps continuing to publish articles and visiting area schools to present talks on math and space.

Bedgood

It was apparent in the very early stages of my thoughts about this subject that justice could not be done in this column. We've had some wonderful students come through the math programs, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. I'm very proud to claim many of these as "friend" and I'm even more proud that they consider me to be their "friend." Since I'm rather limited on what I can address, I'll focus on one of the aspects of my career at ETSU that I think has really made a difference, not only for me but for the stu-

dents who have studied mathematics at ETSU. Of course, I'm referring to the faculty of the department. Throughout my career from one end of the campus to the other I would regularly hear accolades and praise directed toward the mathematics faculty. There was often wonderment expressed concerning the collegiality and harmonious relationships that existed within the group and between members of the faculty. It seems there was genuine respect and affection among members of the group. There seemed to be an absence of arrogance and loftiness and intimidation. Thus, this provided an atmosphere in which it was easy to discuss problems, and to disagree on and argue a point. It also provided a comfortable environment for the junior members to interact with senior members of the faculty. Students in the department soon sensed the relationships that prevailed within the faculty group, and this often proved to be a very positive factor in their study.

A few months ago a former faculty member of this department who has been away for 12-14 years paid me a visit. Since his leaving ETSU, he has had occasions to experience several working environments. He stated that none measures up to the quality of his colleagues while at ETSU in terms of helpfulness, harmony, respect, and genuine friendships. His statement is a reflection of many who have taught in this department.

Retirement Dinner Planned for Mathematics Department Retirees

On Saturday, September 16, 1995, the ETSU Mathematics Department will honor four retiring members of its faculty with a dinner party in the American Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center at 6:00 p.m. Those being honored are Drs. Dale Bedgood, Archie Brock, John Lamb, Jr. and Howard Lambert.

All Mathematics Alumni, family, friends and neighbors are invited to attend this gala event. Although it is a long time off, it will occur before the fall issue of *Aftermath* comes out, so there is a form located elsewhere in this newsletter for making reservations by September 8, 1995. We will have our homecoming breakfast as usual next fall on October 28, 1995. We hope to see you at both of these events.

William Ted Mahavier Joins ETSU Mathematics Faculty

Mr. William Ted Mahavier joined the ETSU Mathematics Department faculty in January, 1995. Here is a brief autobiographical sketch:

While finishing my Ph.D. at UNT, I have taken an adjunct position at ETSU. My current goal is to continue developing innovative teaching techniques while publishing and furthering my dissertation.

My dissertation involves solving singular differential equations using steepest descent in weighted Sobolev spaces. Singular equations have applications in transonic flow problems as well as in chip design.

My hobbies include sailing, investment strategies, rock climbing, antique car restoration, and internet surfing—to name a few!

Book Publications By John Lamb, Jr. Still Available

The book entitled *25 and Counting* containing the publications of Dr. John Lamb, Jr. is still available. It is dedicated to the memory of William Weldon "Bub" Taylor and contains stories he used to tell, puzzles he liked to solve, etc. The proceeds are being donated to the Bub Taylor Scholarship Fund. Alumni may order copies of the book using the form located elsewhere in this newsletter.

Model Rocket Society Formed at ETSU

Dr. John Lamb, Jr. is the faculty sponsor of the newly organized model rocket society at ETSU. Officers are: Ronald Layton—President, William Corcoran—Vice President and Martha Kuhl—Secretary-Treasurer. The club plans to host a contest between departments on campus to see who can stay aloft the longest and/or fly the highest. The club also plans to host a meet for various schools in the area and one for scout troops to earn space exploration merit badges.

Mathematics Clubs News

The Mathematics Clubs have a group of energetic, hard-working officers and members this year. They are led by Julie Dunnahoe and Becky L. Winters, Pi Mu Epsilon President and Vice-President; Sonjah Bramlett and Martha J. Kuhl, MAA (Student Chapter) President and Vice President; Leah Fuller, Alpha Gamma Alpha President; and Ronald R. Layton, Treasurer. Pamela Webster served as Vice President of Pi Mu Epsilon until her graduation in December and was a valuable asset to the club. A contest for students which offered prizes for guessing the number of candies in a jar and two booths at the University Halloween Carnival enabled them to make a donation of $250 to the Dennis Grantham Scholarship Fund. They won a prize at homecoming for large mural-sized paintings on the department office's glass windows and later decorated the same windows with impressive Christmas scenes. Our departmental secretary, Sue Smith, deserves a lot of credit for providing paint and other support for these projects! At the begining of the spring, 1995 term, they had

a book sale to raise money for the Grantham scholarship. Several professors, who are retiring, cleaned out their office libraries and donated the books to the clubs to sell. We also cleaned out the book storage room and reading room looking for duplicates and old editions. The sale ran from January 19th to February 10th. They raised over $400. They have a couple of other projects in mind for the spring term to raise even more money for scholarships.

1994 Putnam Exam Report

Many of our former and current scholarship winners participated in the annual Putnam Exam, a six-hour, twelve-problem competition. Nationally, the most common score is 0; yes, zero! Those who took the exam on December 3, 1994 were Dale Henderson, Janet Sipes, Jonna Wallace, Pam Webster and Jeff Yeager; only Jeff is not a scholarship recipient. Here are three problems from their test:

(A1) Say the sequence

$$a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots$$

satisfies

$$0 < a_n \leq a_{2n} + a_{2n+1}.$$

Prove the summation series a_n diverges.

(B1) Find all positive integers that are within 250 of exactly 15 perfect squares.

(B2) For which real numbers c is there a straight line that intersects the curve

$$y = x^4 + 9x^3 + cx^2 + 9x + 4$$

in four distinct points?

List of Scholarship Recipients Growing Nicely

Through the generosity of mathematics department alumni and other friends of the department, this past fall we were able to give out scholarships to ten deserving students. The recipients were honored at the 1994 Alumni Homecoming Breakfast. In addition to those listed below, L. Douglass Fletcher III, Becky Winters and Thomas Witt were also recognized and each received a Lafferty Excellence Award. The first four scholarships in the list below are restricted to undergraduate students. Our newest scholarship honoring one of our colleagues, Dr. Dennis Grantham, who is one of the finest mathematics teachers in the history of the department, recognizes deserving graduate students. Below is a list of all the scholarships we have and the recipients:

Rachel Lafferty Scholarship

David Dugan	1991
Sharon Cates	1992
Dale Henderson	1993
Elizabeth Warren	1994

W. W. "Bub" Taylor Scholarship

Lara Coffer	1989
Tara Robertson and Tamara Scott	1990
Kimberly Koch and Kimberly McGahee	1991
Dale Henderson and William Taylor	1992
Janet Sipes and Jonna Wallace	1993
Julie Dunnahoe and Melissa Rogers	1994

Cecil B. Wright Scholarship

Tim Hooker	1989
Greg Olson	1990
Anthony Rodgers	1991
George Ferguson	1992
Pamela Webster	1993
Janet Sipes and Jonna Wallace	1994

John and Elaine Yznaga Scholarship

Sharon Cates	1991
Stephens Johnson	1992
Toni Humphries	1993
Jen-Te Tseng	1994

Dennis Grantham Scholarship

Connie Yarema	1994

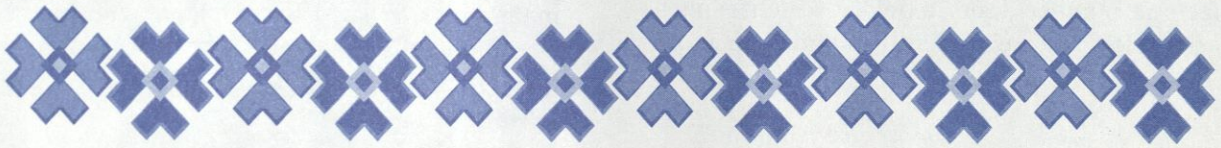
Spring Business Calculus Pilot Course Offered

During the Spring, 1995 semester Heidi Staebler is teaching a section of Math 176 out of a new text produced at Clemson University entitled: *Calculus Concepts: An Informal Approach for Students in Business, Economics and the Liberal Arts*. Traditionally, business calculus courses cover the same material as regular calculus courses but with applications in business and the social sciences and much less mathematical rigor. However, this course takes a completely fresh approach by emphasizing modeling data and using calculus as a tool to answer pertinent questions about the "real-world" situations being modeled. Students can do significant mathematics on real data with less algebraic manipulation than has traditionally been emphasized in business calculus through the use of T.I.-82 graphing calculators. In addition, the course has a strong "hands-on" and group work flavor. In the second half of the semester, students will be putting their learned skills to use by developing a marketing and selling strategy for "homecoming T-shirts" in the form of two group projects. They will be expected to complete

both written and oral presentations of their work. This course should put to rest the perpetual question "When will I ever use mathematics?"!!

Second Annual Mathematics Awareness Week Being Planned

The mathematics department plans, once again, to use Mathematics Awareness Week, April 23-29, 1995, to build appreciation for and awareness of mathematics on the ETSU campus. As was done last year, two competitions with prizes donated by local businesses will highlight the week. The first is a problem solving competition for the mathematically inclined. Prizes will be awarded for the best solutions in the following three categories: undergraduate student, graduate student, faculty and staff. The second is a raffle designed to raise "mathematical morale." Raffle tickets are "purchased" by correctly answering fun thinking problems. The department hopes to extend this competition to local school children. In addition, there will be mathematical presentations throughout the week and an educational display exhibiting this year's national theme: Mathematics and Symmetry. The department would welcome any offers to give a presentation and would be happy to share competition problems. Contact Dr. Rick Kreminski at (903) 886-5947 or Heidi Staebler at (903) 886-5952 for information.



Reservations for Retirement Dinner and *25 and Counting* Book Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: ( ) _____

Please reserve _____ places at the Mathematics Faculty Retirement Dinner on September 16, 1995 in the American Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center at $8.00 each.

Enclosed: $ _____

Please send _____copies of *25 and Counting* at $14.95 each plus $1.23 sales tax plus either $2.16 for first class postage or $1.24 for book rate postage to the address above.

Enclosed: $ _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Please mail to
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Commerce, TX 75429-3011

Book Review

Almost everyone interested in mathematics has read or least heard of the book, *Men of Mathematics*, by E. T. Bell. In it the author gives a colorful and opinionated account of the lives of several famous mathematicians. The book became an instant classic and has lost little of its popularity in the fifty-eight years since it first appeared.

Few people, however, know much about Bell himself. Constance Reid, whose biographies of Hilbert and Courant were well received, was asked to "write something" about Bell. She expected this to be reasonably straightforward, for Bell's academic career is a matter of public record, and his only child, Dr. Taine Bell, and his wife Janet both promised full cooperation. But there were surprises.

Bell received his degrees from Stanford, Washington, and Columbia. He taught at Washington for quite awhile and then spent his remaining twenty-seven years at Cal Tech. His speciality was algebraic number theory, a field in which he published over two hundred research papers. In addition he wrote several popular books on science, sixteen novels of science fiction (using the name John Taine), and a great deal of poetry.

It was the early part of Bell's life that proved to be fascinating but elusive. Bell was born in Scotland, and he had people to believe that he came to this country at the age of nineteen or so. Reid was able to determine that Bell's parents and their three children moved to San Jose, California when he was fifteen months old. He lived there, happily it appears, until the age of thirteen, when his father died and his mother moved the family to England. Yet he never told anyone, not even his wife or son, about his early life in California.

There were other surprises as well, which you can find out for yourself by reading the product of Reid's research, a full-length book entitled, *The Search for E. T. Bell*, published by the MAA in 1993. Arthur C. Clarke makes an appearance in the Bell story, and you can learn what mathematician died after a waiter dropped a tray of dishes on his head at a banquet. There is something for everyone.

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